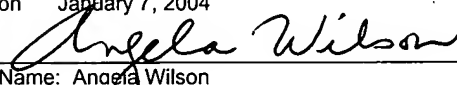


**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: Neiner, Christopher A.  
For : CAN LID CLOSURE AND METHOD OF JOINING A CAN LID  
CLOSURE TO A CAN BODY  
U.S. Serial No.: New Filing  
Filed: New Filing  
Group Art Unit: 3727  
Examiner: Joseph Moy

MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

|  |
|--|
| <p><b>CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING</b><br/><b>LABEL NO. EV 184578093 US</b></p> <p>I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail, Label No. as above, in an envelope addressed to:</p> <p>MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION<br/>Commissioner for Patents<br/>P.O. Box 1450<br/>Alexandria, VA 22313-1450</p> <p>on January 7, 2004<br/><br/>Name: Angela Wilson</p> |
|--|

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Dear Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment accompanies a Request for filing a Continuation of parent application Serial No. 10/153,364, filed May 22, 2002. Before examining the new continuation application, please enter this Preliminary Amendment.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Please add the following paragraph to the Specification before the section entitled "Technical Field":

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/153,364 entitled "CAN LID CLOSURE AND METHOD OF JOINING A CAN LID CLOSURE TO A CAN BODY," filed on May 22, 2002 which was a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No.